

Public Officials by their appointing authorities. In order to avoid duplication of effort, Agency heads shall coordinate this effort with the Board's staff.

Section 7. Rules of Conduct for Public Officials.

Public Officials shall perform their official duties in a manner to promote the best interests of the public. To help ensure the proper performance of their duties, the following Rules of Conduct are adopted.

(a) Conflicts of Interest

(1) A Public Official shall not knowingly use his or her position in any manner which will result in financial benefit, direct or indirect, to the Public Official, the Official's family, or an individual with whom or business, organization, or group with which the Public Official is associated. This provision shall not apply to financial and other benefits (a) derived by a Public Official that he or she would enjoy to an extent no greater than that which other citizens of North Carolina would or could enjoy, (b) rightfully gained by a Public Official pursuant to the proper performance of his or her official duties or State employment, or (c) that are so remote, tenuous, insignificant, or speculative that a reasonable person would conclude under the circumstances that the Public Official's ability to protect the public interest and perform his or her official duties would not be compromised.

(2) A Public Official shall not, directly or indirectly, knowingly ask, accept, demand, exact, solicit, seek, assign, receive, or agree to receive anything of value for himself or herself, or for another person, in return for being influenced in the discharge of his or her official responsibilities, other than that which is received by the Public Official from the State for acting in his or her official capacity.

(3) A Public Official shall not solicit or receive personal financial gain, other than that received by the Public Official from the State for acting in his or her official capacity, for advice or assistance given in the course of carrying out the Public Official's duties.

(4) A Public Official shall not use or disclose information gained in the course of, or by reason of, his or her official responsibilities in a way that would affect a personal financial interest of the Public Official, a member of the Official's family, or a person with whom or business, organization, or group with which the Public Official is associated. A Public Official shall not improperly use or disclose any information deemed confidential by North Carolina law and therefore not a public record.

(5) A Public Official shall not cause the employment, appointment, promotion, transfer, or advancement of a family member to a State or local office or position which the Public Official supervises or